

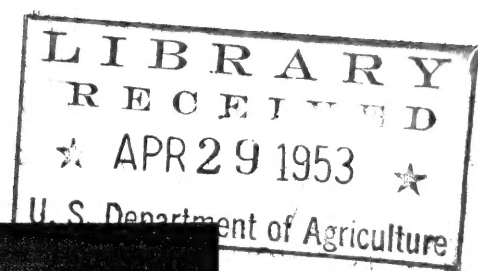
## **Historic, Archive Document**

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Mendelian Seedling of Moeder Ballego

THE MIRACLE  
DAHLIA GARDEN  
*of Curtis Redfern*

1953

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA



## **HISTORICAL:**

Gregor Johann Mendel, known as the Father of Heredity, was born July 22, 1822 in the little Austrian City of Brunn. He became a monk, later Abbot of the Augustinian Friar's Church of St. Thomas. He became interested in experimenting with plant breeding, especially common garden peas, using a garden plot 20' x 120'.

He produced by inbreeding or self-pollination.

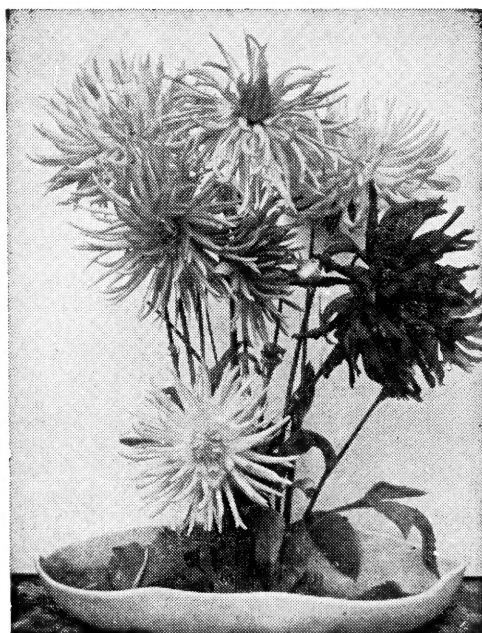
He made copious records of his experiments, prepared a short paper outlining the results of his work which the scientific society of which he was a member printed and filed in its archives.

He died January 6, 1884 and it was not until 1900 that three scientists located his pamphlet. Three years later, after research Mendel's ideas were given to the world as the Mendelian Law. He probably knew nothing about chromosomes and hormones which were discovered later. Under the Mendelian Law of Segregation and Reassortment, 25% of the seedlings will be outstanding, 25% recessive and 50% normal.

In 1947 after trying for years to produce dahlia seed by inbreeding or self-pollination, I discovered I could achieve this by using my thumb to massage the pollen in a circular motion which engaged the very small sticky pistil which is part of every dahlia petal. In a few days seed pods began to develop. This is true with gladiolus, iris and other flowers.



**El Sueno**



**Mendelian Seedlings**



### **500 field grown clumps of the finest American and European dahlias**



**1952** was a very successful season. I was very fortunate in securing the assistance of John Simms, a Santa Barbara High School student to help me after school hours.

Although partially handicapped, we planted 500 field grown clumps of some of the finest dahlias in the world, including many of my own introductions and Mendelian seedlings.

When the dahlias were in bloom I supplied Hunt's China Shop with dahlias for table arrangements on two occasions. In September I was the guest speaker at a dinner in the local Masonic Temple, La Cumbre Lodge No. 642 of which Mr. L. W. Pingree is Master. Mr. W. W. McKee, 33 degree Venerable Master of the Santa Barbara Scottish Rite Bodies was present and all were very much interested in my talk about my experimental work in the production of Mendelian seedlings.

Beautiful dahlia arrangements made by the Alpha Florists added to the evening's program.

Purchasers of seed write me that practically all the seed bought from me germinated. The supply of Mendelian seed is always limited.

I offer four 25-seed packets for \$10.00. Each packet has the name of the variety I self-pollenized.

In February I will send you a descriptive price list of dahlia roots for April 1 delivery. Of many I have only a few roots. The photographs were taken by Mr. Cecil Loomis of Santa Barbara.

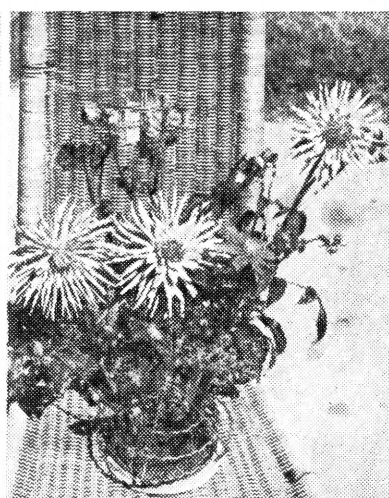
**CURTIS REDFERN**



**Hotel Virginia, Santa Barbara, California  
Garden at 210 West Yanonali Street**



Franciscan



Mendelian Seedlings

